



Vol. 51, Issue 1

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Jan. 10, 2003

## Engineers contend for Curtin Award

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron is gearing up as a finalist for the 2002 Society of American Military Engineers Maj. Gen. Robert H. Curtin Award.

"The award is presented annually to the most outstanding CE Squadron in the areas of expeditionary and installation engineering, environmental leadership, housing excellence, emergency services and additional exemplary achievements," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pitchford, 16th CES commander.

The squadron competes for the award in the small unit category against the 43rd CES, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and the 100th CES, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

Three evaluators are scheduled to be here Monday to spend a day with CES and conduct an on-site evaluation.

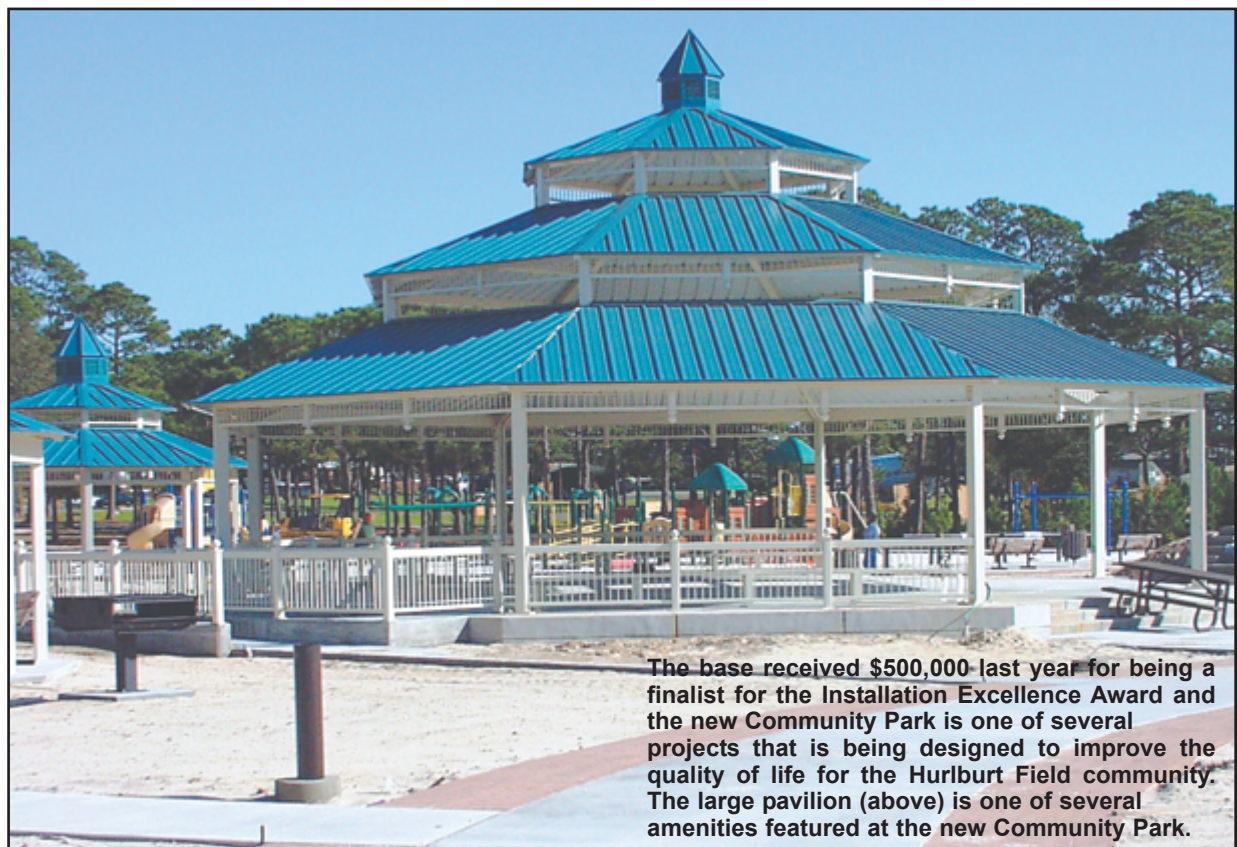
The nomination package submitted for the award covered the period Oct. 1, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2002, and highlighted many of CE's outstanding accomplishments:

- Three Bronze Stars were awarded to 16th CES personnel.

- The "Commando Engineers" deployed a 55-person lead CE team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – erected a tent city for 4,000 people, restored a deteriorated airfield, constructed the "Imhoff Cone" wastewater treatment facility and even hooked the local community up to it.

- Selected as pilot unit for a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Collective Protection system – trained 65 Air Force civil engineers and U.S. Navy Special Operations Forces on complex beddown operating procedures.

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The base received \$500,000 last year for being a finalist for the Installation Excellence Award and the new Community Park is one of several projects that is being designed to improve the quality of life for the Hurlburt Field community. The large pavilion (above) is one of several amenities featured at the new Community Park.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

## Hurlburt Field finalist for Installation Excellence

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

Just hours before the New Year rang in, senior leadership at Hurlburt Field received the news that the base is a finalist for the Commander-in-Chief's 2003 Installation Excellence Award.

"What a great way to start out the New Year," said Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief. "It doesn't surprise me that Hurlburt was selected again as a finalist for the award. This base is full of outstanding professionals doing extraordinary things around the installation."

Around the same time last year, the base was selected for this award competing against Lajes Field, Azores, and Osan Air Base, Korea. This year Hurlburt Field will compete against Kadena AB, Japan, and Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

Personnel in the Installations and Logistics Directorate, U.S. Air Force Headquarters, Washington, stated that the submissions for the award clearly demonstrate the outstanding contributions, innovation, and commitment to excellence of Air Force people in operating and maintaining their installations and supporting the Air Force mission.

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Base members spin into the New Year

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# VIEWPOINTS

## Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



Courtesy photo

**Col. Frank Kisner, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, serves Christmas dinner to base members at a forward deployed location during the holidays.**

## Garage sales

**Comment:** I'm a resident of Commando Village. Recently I attempted to set up a garage sale with my neighbor. After contacting housing and security forces, we found we would have to cancel because no one without a military identification card would be allowed access to Commando Village.

Even though we have a large military community, we didn't feel we could generate enough traffic without the local community.

Garage sales are a great way to get rid of things you no longer need, especially for people who are moving.

My hope is that maybe one Saturday a month we could open the housing areas for garage sales to the local community.

Our past experience with garage sales has been excellent with the locals, and we would like to be able to continue that in any way possible.

**Reply:** Thanks for the opportunity to address your concern. As we continue to see Americans both at home and abroad continue to be targets of terrorism, it is the responsibility of the 16th Special Operations Wing to ensure the safety of the more than 12,000 people who work and/or live on Hurlburt Field.

We believe opening the base and its housing areas to the public in general would not be a good idea when taking the world situation into consideration.

However, 16th Services Squadron's Outdoor Recreation takes sign-ups for the yard sales they have at the Soundside.

For a \$25 fee a table is provided and services takes care of all advertising. The fee helps offset labor costs.

Please contact Ben Moore, 16th SVS, at 884-2967 to reserve a spot.

### Commissary parking

**Comment:** There's a parking lot near the Hurlburt Field Commissary that has

a sign on it designating it "commissary employees only." But, I've noticed during my trips on base that it's normally empty or there are just one or two cars in it.

My question is why don't the commissary employees use it. With the renovation of the hospital, parking will be at a premium. I feel the employees should make use of this lot or it should be open to the general public.

**Reply:** Thank you for your comment and concerns with regards to the parking at the commissary.

I agree, parking on base is at a premium and we must utilize the spaces available appropriately.

Commissary employees will be instructed to utilize the parking lot on the side of the building and the sign designating it employees only will be removed.

Also, the clinic's new parking lot is scheduled to be completed in the near future, and should alleviate the situation.

# Be professional at all times

by Chief Master Sgt. James Duval  
AFSOC Security Forces

In the Air Force we like to consider ourselves professionals, but are we? Perhaps the better question is "Are you?" Wait, don't discard this article just yet. Read it and then ask yourself "Am I guilty?"

Webster's New World College Dictionary defines professional, in the sense of status, methods, character or standards, as "possessing great skill or experience in a field or activity." Those in the Air Force, civilian and military, certainly qualify to be called professional, but the question is — "Do you act professional?"

Think about the last time you saw a servicemember speeding down U.S. Highway 98, swerving in and out of traffic with that big Air Force sticker on their window, proudly (or not so proudly) wearing their uniform.

Or how about the last time you saw someone filling their car up with gas, but "forgot" to wear their hat. Even if it's off-base surely the rules still apply there, right?

How about the last time someone was late for a meeting or just pawned it off on someone else because it just wasn't that

important? Is this the conduct of a professional?

Ever been off base in civilian clothing and overheard someone, who you just knew had to be in the military, bad-mouthing the Air Force? Did you stop to think that they might be giving the wrong impression to someone who has no military association and could also be listening to that conversation? Does that sound professional to you?

What kind of an image do you portray to your superiors, subordinates, peers or the community? Think I'm overstating the problem? Tune in, look around, you'll see it, too. "Are you guilty of acting unprofessional?"

Professionalism is a little like freedom. It takes hard work and lots of sacrifice to maintain. You have to decide to maintain your professionalism; keep yourself under control.

Remember that actions speak louder than words. Merely stating you are a professional or assuming you are, because of your status or position, is a mistake.

To truly be a professional, you must act professional at all times — on and off duty. When you don't, the Air Force loses a little of its professionalism.

It's a state of mind. Cross into the blue and see the difference you can make.



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### Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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# News



Courtesy photo

## Priority call

An Air Force Special Operations Command member (above), recently had the opportunity to speak with President George W. Bush on Christmas Eve while forward deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The sergeant was one of several military members around the world who received holiday greetings from the President. After her conversation with President Bush, she was patched through to her mother for a morale call.

## CURTIN, Continued from Page 1

- Completed 36 operations, maintenance and military family housing projects worth more than \$8.5 million.
- Expertly managing over \$62 million in ongoing construction
- Constructed a new \$3.2 million control tower with a next generation radar system – soundproofed to reduce exterior noise and unobstructed view of low-flying aircraft.
- Internationally recognized as a Groundwater Guardian

Community for the fifth consecutive year.

○Worked with Eglin Air Force Base to begin privatization of more than 3,000 Air Force homes.

○Joined a multi-agency team of 100 firefighters to extinguish the largest area fire in more than ten years – forest fires threatened \$7 million in property and adjoining wetlands.

“We’re extremely pleased to be a finalist for this prestigious award,” Colonel Pitchford said. “Our people have done and continue to do excellent work and we’re going to make sure the evaluators witness that Monday.”

## EXCELLENCE, Continued from Page 1

“Improving Hurlburt’s quality of life is something we’re always striving to do,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pitchford, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. “Our people come first in everything we do.”

There are several quality of life projects that are complete or in the works, and the selection board will see them first-hand:

- A \$5.3 million base road project that will bring the installation up to modern standards.
- A \$1.2 million Community Park that will consist of an interactive water fountain, a skate park, new playgrounds, pavilions and a batting cage.
- The bowling center recently under-

went \$280,000 worth of renovation including improvements to the air condition system, new lighting, furniture and carpet.

○A base wildlife habitat near the child development center, which contains a flower garden, butterfly garden, fishpond, greenhouse and vegetable garden.

○Military family housing residents generated enough recycling revenues to pay base pool entrance fees and allow free swimming.

○Chapel’s Munch and Mend program had 20 volunteers that donated 960 hours – cooked meals and sewed stripes for more than 600 airmen.

“I expect the board members to visit several units, and talk with people to get a feel for what Hurlburt Field has to offer and the types of professionals

working here,” Colonel Pitchford said.

“It’s important for everyone to be prepared, look sharp and allow the board members to see that we’re a work force second to none,” said the colonel. “I think the evaluators will see that we care about our people and our top notch facilities.”

The Installation Excellence Selection Board consists of six people who’re scheduled to visit the three bases between Feb. 3 and 14 to determine the Air Force level winner.

Hurlburt Field will receive \$500,000 for being selected as a finalist and stands to win another \$500,000 for winning the award.

“This selection is a big deal with huge monetary rewards that we can use to continue improving the quality of life here,” said Colonel Pitchford.

## Spotlight on ...



Mark Shackley

**Rank/Duty/Title:** Tech. Sgt./Team Sergeant, CENTCOM flight

**Organization:** 6th Special Operations Squadron

**Hometown:** Denison, Texas

**Hobbies:** Baseball, softball, hockey and fishing

**Contribution to the mission:**

Sergeant Shackley leads the planning and execution of combat aviation advisory missions to various countries throughout the Middle East and Central Asia.

His expertise as a security forces, force protection and air base defense professional directly impacts ongoing counter-terrorism efforts throughout the world.

Sergeant Shackley has recently trained and advised foreign air base defense personnel in several foreign countries.

He has trained foreign forces in areas such as weapons live fire fundamentals, vehicle search methods and security patrol techniques.

*(Editor’s Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the “Spotlight on...” column.)*



# AIR FORCE NEWS

## Air Force prepares for major deployment

by Master Sgt. Scott Elliott  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** – Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld directed the deployment of additional forces to support operations Enduring Freedom, Desert Spring and possible future contingencies Dec. 24.

The additional active-duty forces in Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8 as well as selected forces from AEFs 9 and 10 have been tasked to deploy in a message from the secretary.

The Air Force is organized into 10 AEFs for rotational deployment scheduling. A single AEF represents approximately six squadrons of fighter and bomber aircraft; C-130s Hercules and tankers; search and rescue personnel; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance forces; and the expeditionary combat support elements necessary to support and operate expeditionary bases.

Before these deployments, the Air Force had nearly two full AEFs supporting operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom, and operating more than 12 expeditionary operating bases. The additional deploying forces will bring the total capability of Air Force deployed forces to nearly that of three full AEFs. This deployment will provide forces in the region a stronger set of capabilities. Deploying forces will be assigned to the two air and space expeditionary task forces currently operating in the region.

According to Maj. Gen. Tim Peppe, special assistant to the Air Force chief of staff for AEF matters, besides the forces drawn from the AEFs, Air Mobility Command units and other "enabler" forces will play a major role in this deployment and any future operations.

"Given the unique environment we are operating in today, we expect our expeditionary combat support, such as services, combat communications, intelligence, security forces, civil (engineers) and others will be tasked at a level beyond three AEFs of capability," he said.

Airmen and aircraft from the following Air Force bases have been identified for initial deployment:

○ AEF 7 and 8 including B-1B Lancers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and HC-130s from Moody AFB, Ga.;

○ AEF 9 and 10 including F-15C Eagles from Langley AFB, Va.; F-16s Fighting Falcons from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; HC-130s from Moody AFB, Ga., and HH-60 Pave Hawks and Predator unmanned aerial vehicles from Nellis AFB, Nev.

○ Air and space expeditionary wings and enabler forces include F-15E Strike Eagles from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.; E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar Systems from Robins AFB, Ga.; and AC-130 Gunships, MC-130 Combat Talons and MH-53 Pave Lows from Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Additional aircraft and people are included in the surge order, but units have not yet been identified. (AFPN)

## Air Force announces change in enlisted high year tenure

by Maj. John Thomas  
AFPC Public Affairs

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** – Airmen serving in most enlisted ranks will now have an additional two years available to serve on active duty.

The change, effective Jan. 1 and approved by the Secretary of the Air Force recently, is part of an initiative to retain enlisted people's skills and experience, officials said.

Called the "High Year of Tenure," the policy provides that senior airmen will now be able to serve up to 12 years of total service; technical sergeants will be eligible to serve up to 24 years of service; master sergeants up to 26 years; and senior master sergeants up to 28. Staff sergeant (20 years) and chief master sergeant (30 years) limits are unchanged.

"Extending years in service will increase our ability to adequately sustain a highly skilled enlisted force and reduce experienced-NCO shortages created by both the drawdown in the early '90s, and lower retention trends for the past several years," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

Seen as a good option for most airmen, later HYT dates may affect the status of assignments, promotions, reenlistments and evaluations for thousands of enlisted members. In the next few months, some will face important decisions.

"No one will be forced to stay longer, but a lot of people will be able to – if it fits their plans," said Master Sgt. Mike Hall, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, superintendent of retirements. "We encourage everyone near their high year of tenure to visit their local military personnel flight, especially those with planned or pending assignments, separations or retirements."

In the case of senior airmen, HYT dates will automatically be extended to 12 years,

regardless of any scheduled separation date after Dec. 31. Those planning to leave the service in the near future may be allowed to continue to serve at their present duty location or be reassigned, based on Air Force needs, officials said.

Those airmen who have already spent government funds associated with a separation or retirement will be exempt from the changes, officials said. Typically that includes people who have already shipped household goods, a car, or if their families have already moved to a new location using government funds.

"This policy change gives the Air Force the flexibility to keep our experienced people longer. It's the right thing for the Air Force since we are a retention-based force," said Maj. Gen. John Speigel, in charge of personnel policy at the Air Staff. "It should help us alleviate increased stress on some of our career fields and, at the same time, relieve some recruiting and training requirements."

"We have a pretty comprehensive set of instructions, but each case may be a little different. We understand that," Sergeant Hall said. "It's best for everyone to be sure they understand how these changes will affect them personally."

For instance, the system will not automatically set a person's retirement date based on the high year of tenure," he said. "And although members' HYT dates will be extended, that will not automatically extend their projected DOS (dates of separation)."

The retirement and separations section at Hurlburt Field has identified personnel that need immediate action and they'll be contacted. If the HYT date is Feb. 1 or March 1 and members elect to cancel their retirement or separation, call Master Sgt. Geraldine King at 884-5370.

People that have HYT dates after March 1 will be systematically updated by AFPC. (AFPC)

## Look who's talking: What is your New Year's resolution?



*"To spend my money wisely and to put to good use all the talent and many blessings that the Lord has granted me."*

Vielka Forbes  
16th Services Squadron



*"To spend more quality time with my daughter. Between my Air Force career, my part time job and going to school, this will be a good challenge."*

Staff Sgt.  
Melanie Kain  
16th Special Operations  
Wing



*"To be happy and find joy in my daily life and cherish the small things."*

Staff Sgt.  
Consander Cobb  
16th Medical Group



# Base offers tax assistance during the 2002 tax season

by Capt. Andy Armstrong  
16th SOW Legal Office

With the new year upon us, tax season will be here shortly, and the Hurlburt Field Tax Center will be open soon to assist in filing returns.

The base tax program is one of the great benefits the military provides. The program saves thousands of dollars in tax preparation fees for our active-duty families annually.

The tax center is staffed with legal personnel and volunteer income tax assistance representatives.

These individuals provide an invaluable service during tax season and come from several units on base.

The individuals have attended an Internal Revenue Service sponsored course and have the expertise to answer your tax return questions.

The tax center is limited to individual income tax assistance, and is unable to provide advice or assistance

to anyone owning a private business.

Taxpayers are asked to fill out a Schedule C and bring it in with the rest of their tax documents for electronic filing.

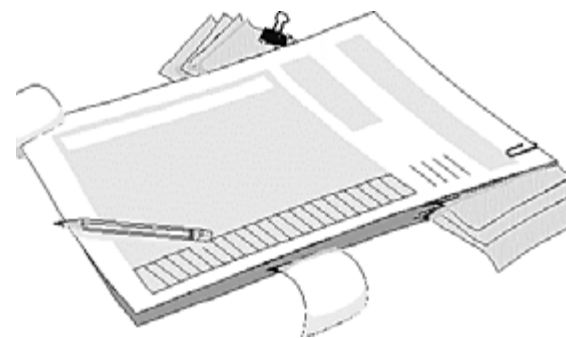
The center will be equipped with electronic filing software that allows for quick tax returns and paperless filings.

People should bring the following items to the center for sufficient assistance:

○Military identification card, social security cards (spouse and/or dependents), all W-2 forms and all 1099 INT and DIV forms.

○Form 1098, HUD-1 forms, proof of a bank account (such as a voided check) if direct deposit is requested and a power of attorney form (if applicable).

○Receipts for deductible expenses (for itemizing deductions), proof of child care expenses and any other tax-related documents.



Services will be provided by appointment for 1040 and 1040A filers and on a walk-in basis for EZ filers.

The tax center opens its doors in Building 90205, located just south of the 16th Special Operations Wing Headquarters Building, Jan. 27 and will remain open through tax day, April 15.

Hours of operation will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays.

For more information, call 884-7821 (Legal Office) or 884-7542/7544 (Tax Center).

Look for more articles and information about the tax center and 2002 tax issues in the coming weeks.

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# New officer promotions announced

Congratulations to the following promotees:

- Air Force Reserve colonels**  
Air Force Special Operations Command  
Susan Morgan  
**16th Medical Operations Squadron**  
Ellen Thomas
- Lieutenant colonels**  
**16th Medical Group**  
Leonardo Cabanilla  
**16th MDOS**  
Thomas Clarke  
Stacey Frazier  
**720th Special Tactics Group**  
John Gandy
- Majors**  
**AFSOC**  
Serena Armstrong  
Zachery Barber  
Russell Voce  
**16th Special Operations Wing**  
Walter Adams  
Robert Bumpus  
David Carr  
Kipper Giles  
**16th Medical Group**  
Nabil Boutros  
**16th Operations Group**  
Douglas Carroll  
Robert Noren  
**4th Special Operations Squadron**  
Robert Lundy  
Peter McDonough  
Robert Seifert  
**6th Special Operations Squadron**  
Mark Campbell  
James Damato  
**15th Special Operations Squadron**  
Marc Martinez  
Timothy McDonald  
Eugene Stein  
**16th Comptroller Squadron**  
Steven Babb  
**16th MDOS**  
Paul Crawford Jr.  
**16th Operations Support Squadron**  
Kevin Kosefeski  
Barry Newton  
**16th Special Operations Squadron**  
David Fujimoto  
James Nardo  
**19th Special Operations Squadron**  
David Mohon  
**20th Special Operations Squadron**  
Shawn Cameron  
Steven Gregg  
Daniel Pinkava  
Todd Wieser  
**Area Defense Council**  
Donald Witmyer  
**Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group**  
Julie Olson  
Richard Underwood  
**United States Air Force Special Operations School**  
Andrea La Force  
Alexander Merz  
Tyler Moore  
Carl Wooten  
**United States Air Force Weather Squadron**  
Oscar Espinoza  
**25th Information Operations Squadron**  
Scott Hayford  
**39th Information Operations Squadron**  
Scott Runyan  
**505th Operations Squadron**  
Edward Nall  
**720th Special Tactics Group**  
Michael Flatten  
Michael Martin  
**823rd RED HORSE Squadron**  
Suzanne Braunschneider  
Stephanie Bronson  
**3rd Air Force (projected gain)**  
Andrew Krog  
**Captain**  
**16th SOW**  
Charles Seligman

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# Junior NCOs receive new focus

by Staff Sgt. Mary Williams  
AFSOC Protocol

Hurlburt Field has moved a step closer to total representation as Focus 56, an organization for active-duty, Guard or Reserve staff sergeant selects through technical sergeants, held their initial meeting at the base theater Dec. 2.

The guest speaker was Retired Chief Master Sergeant Eric Benken, the 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. CMSAF Benken provided the organization with his insights. He challenged Focus 56 to set goals and use the group to achieve them, specifically in the areas of professional development and mentoring.

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Gray, 16th Transportation Squadron, spearheaded the development of Focus 56. "I got the idea from a good friend stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base," he said. "He told me what they do and what they were all about, so I thought we needed one at Hurlburt Field."

Focus 56 is an organization made up of the middle tier of NCOs. The organization is committed to facilitating professionalism and growth throughout the Hurlburt Field enlisted force. "I wanted an organization for E-5s and E-6s to have as their own," Sergeant Gray

said. "A group in which they have a voice to be heard and a forum where they can get up-to-date information that affects them directly."

The organization will provide a voice for Hurlburt Fields junior NCOs, bridging the gap between the Hurlburts Airman Council and Top 3 Associations.

Focus 56 will offer mid level NCOs the opportunity to grow, both as an NCO and as an individual. There are always opportunities to suggest and in many cases implement change. Most importantly, it offers junior NCOs an avenue to provide a positive influence within the community.

The overall concept of Focus 56 is to drive forward, while improving leadership skills and setting examples for everyone interested in doing things the right way.

The organization will meet on a monthly basis with panels and guest speakers brought in to address topics concerning E-5s and E-6s and the base.

Focus 56 will also maintain and support recognition programs such as quarterly awards, Commando Pride Airman Center, and a Commando Warrior Award for airmen and NCOs.

"The possibilities for Focus 56 are enormous and the future is certain, this will be a great organization to belong to," Sergeant Gray said.

The junior NCOs were the only group that didn't have a forum where they could voice their opinions and concerns about base issues that affect them. That's no longer the case.

"Focus 56 is an excellent opportunity for junior NCOs to communicate amongst their peers and broaden their knowledge of base issues," said Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief.

It enables NCOs to have a chair at the table and present their concerns and views to senior leadership with one loud voice. The organization will give junior NCOs the opportunity to inform the decision makers of the base on what direction would best benefit our segment of the base populace. This is key since most junior NCOs are right next to the airmen that are on the front lines performing the actual tasks it takes to accomplish the wing's mission.

Focus 56 is not only a forum for members to voice their concerns – it's also a stepping-stone for members who wish to achieve membership in Top 3.

Meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. in the Deployment Control Center auditorium. Anyone interested should call, Sergeant Gray at 884-5199.

## Officer assignments move beyond 'seven-day option'

by Maj. John Thomas  
AFPC Public Affairs

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** – Following Secretary of the Air Force guidance, personnel officials have reviewed and improved what was called the "seven-day option" policy.

Those officers who would be eligible to separate or retire instead of taking an assignment will now get more decision time and a general officer's review of the assignment before having to make a potentially career-ending decision. In the past, these officers were given seven days to apply to leave the Air Force.

After intense study of the processes that lead up to those critical decisions, personnel officials have made changes that will result in more formal communication earlier in the process between assignment teams, commanders and the affected officer. This will let members and the Air Force make the best possible decisions on potential moves.

Before an officer leaves the Air Force as a result of a permanent change of station-related decision, a general officer will "ensure that it's the right decision for the individual and for the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Riordan, the personnel center commander.

Only about one percent of officers typically express the intention to leave the Air Force instead of taking an assignment, officials said.

"What hasn't changed is that our first priority remains filling Air Force needs so we pro-

vide a ready and capable Air Force for combatant commanders," said Col. Chris Miller, personnel center director of assignments. "What has changed is that we're taking extra care to consider the impact on future capabilities of letting an experienced officer leave the service who we might possibly be able to retain."

"That sometimes means we need to work with individuals and commanders to explore all reasonable options," he said. "The needs of the Air Force come first," General O'Riordan said. "We will not be able to please every person. But it's worth the effort if we can find some common ground to retain a valuable officer."

For now, senior leaders have agreed that enlisted assignment procedures don't need to change, officials said. "We've looked hard and found no clear benefit to changing today's enlisted assignment system," said Chief Master Sgt. Carlton McCoy, personnel center superintendent of the airman assignments division.

"Of course that doesn't mean we aren't always looking for ways to improve. It only means we're not making any changes to the enlisted assignment declination policy at this time," the chief said.

The Air Force Personnel Center is currently reviewing a wide range of officer and enlisted personnel policies, officials said.

For more information about the 'seven-day option', call Master Sgt. Lee Jones, 16th Mission Support Squadron, superintendent of outbound assignments at 884-2686. (AFPC)

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## Inspector General

### 24-Hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline

Hurlburt Field 884-6322

Air Force (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense (800) 424-9098

Become A Career Enlisted Aviator

John M. Stricklin, TSgt.  
AFSOC Recruiting, Retraining Program

Phone: (850) 884-4146 or

DSN 579-4146 fax: (850) 884- 2232

Email: john.strickland@hurlburt.af.mil





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# Special OPERATORS



Courtesy photo

## Step up

Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, and Kim Johnson, pin on master sergeant stripes to newly promoted Master Sgt. Thomas Johnson, 15th Special Operations Squadron, during his step promotion ceremony Jan. 3.

## Look who's new in pink and blue



### Girls

Brianna Nichole Elise, born Dec. 5 to Heather and Anthony Menendez

Cierra Julie Ev, born Dec. 13 to Audra and Stephen Tanciar

Brianna McKenzie, born Dec. 14 to Airman 1st Class Cory and Lacey Goulet, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron

Kiara Soliel, born Dec. 15 to Staff Sgt. Kendra and Senior Airman Andrae' Drisdorn, 16th Special Forces Squadron

Choloe Anne, born Dec. 15 to Senior Airman Ritchies and Alma Hernandez, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron

### Boys

Austin Gene, born Dec. 2 to Senior Airman Joshua and Anicia Lowell, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Juan Rafael, born Dec. 2 to Senior Master Sgt. Juan and Carmen Martinez, 16th Special Operations Wing

Brady Matthew, born Dec. 4 to Staff Sgt. Chad and Melissa Ackman, 20th Special Operations Squadron

Vincent Matthew, born Dec. 10 to Staff Sgt. Amy and Senior Airman Matthew Winger, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron and 16th Comptroller Squadron

Visit the Hurlburt Field Homepage

[www.hurlburt.af.mil](http://www.hurlburt.af.mil)

## LIFESTYLE

## Military

## NH Guard openings

The following are part-time New Hampshire Air Guard vacancies at Pease Air National Guard Base. For more information, call DSN 852-3502 or (800) 257-9368.

AFSCs: 1COX2; 1C1X1; 2A5X1G; 2A6X1A; 2A6X4; 2A6X5; 2A6X6; 2A7X1; 2A7X2; 2A7X3; 2A7X4; 2E0X1; 2E1X2; 2E1X3; 2E6X3; 2F0X1; 2R1X1; 2S0X1; 2S0X2; 2T0X1; 2T1X1; 2T3X1; 3A0X1; 3E0X1; 3E0X2; 3E1X1; 3E2X1; 3E4X1; 3E4X2; 3E4X3; 3E5X1; 3E7X1; 3E9X1; 3P0X1; 3S0X1; 4A1X1; 4E0X1; 4F0X1; 4N0X1; 4T0X1; 4Y0X1; 5J0X1; 6E0X1.

## New York Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia New York, home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Air National Guard vacancies available in the following career fields. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456 or 1-800-524-5070 or e-mail Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

AFSCs: 1A1X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2E6X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T251, 3C0X1, 3E0X1, 3E1X1, 3E2X1, 3E4X1, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A2X1, 4E0X1, 4N0X1, and 6F0X1, as well as full-time active duty opportunity in the following AFSC: 2A5X1.

## Deployment custodians

According to Air Force Manual 23-110, commanders have the responsibility of ensuring equipment under their control is deployed properly. Commanders and equipment custodians are to ensure appointment of deployment custodians for the equipment involved and identify the newly appointed custodians to 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Equipment Liaison Office (formerly base supply) for training. Training classes are held every Thursday at 2 p.m. in the LRS Building 90710 (formerly base supply).

Primary/alternate and deployed equipment custodians are responsible to:

- Retain responsibility for deployed equipment until the equipment is returned to home station, and/or accountability has been transferred to the gaining base/deployed location;

- Act as a single point of contact in the deploying organization about equipment matters for the losing/gaining base ELO.

- Ensure that the selection of items for deployment is coordinated with home station ELO.

- Ensure that all deployment listings/transfer documents are in their possession before actual departure.

- Record/document all equipment gains/losses that occur enroute/during/after the deployment for home station primary/alternate custodians.

- Deployed custodians/commanders ensure report of survey for equipment lost, damaged or destroyed at the deployed location and forwarded to the home station custodian for account update.

- Inventory after return from deployment and provide custodian verification of all returned assets.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Margie Lusher at 884-6910 or Staff Sgt. Gina Carr at 884-7316.

## Community

## MLK holiday events

The following community events are in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: The annual memorial program will be held at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium. A parade assembly will be held at the same auditorium at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 20, followed by a rally at Chester Pruitt Park. For more information, call Lewis Jennings at 862-8721.

## Science fair

Judges are needed to participate in the regional science fair Feb. 4 at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds. Volunteers with disciplines in the following areas are needed by Monday: behavioral science, biochemistry, botany, health and medicine, microbiology, zoology, chemistry, earth and space, engineering, math, computers, physics and more. To volunteer, call 2nd Lt. James Madeiros or Shirley Pigott at 882-3931.

## Toastmasters club

People interested in joining a new Toastmasters club on Hurlburt Field should attend the first meeting Jan. 22 at the education center Building 90220. The Toastmasters club will help individuals improve and develop their speaking, listening and leadership skills through a supportive and positive learning environment. For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-1815 or e-mail marty.mears@hurlburt.af.mil. People can also find information on the Toastmasters International Web site at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

## Tax center opening

The base tax center opens Jan. 27 through April 15 at Building 90205. Center hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call the center at 884-7542/7544.

## Hap Arnold scholarship

The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant program awards \$1,500 grants to: children of active duty; Air National Guard/Reservists on extended active duty; ANG performing full-time active duty; retired Reservists with 20 or more of qualifying years of service; spouses (residing stateside) of active duty; Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased members. For more information, call the Air Force Aid Society at 884-2949 or visit the Web site at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

## HOSC, EOSC invitation

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club and Eglin Officers' Spouses' Club are invited by the Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club to attend their January luncheon. The entertainment will be a skit called 'The Little Black Dress.' The entrée will be chicken salad croissant, pasta salad and potato chips. Cobbler will be the dessert. Iced tea, coffee and water will be served for refreshment. Cost is \$8. Non-club members will be charged a \$2 surcharge. People must make their own childcare arrangements for this event. Reservations for the luncheon must be placed by Wednesday. For more information or reservations, call Marsha Babe at 678-4473, or e-mail at [HOSCreservations@COX.net](mailto:HOSCreservations@COX.net) for reservations.

Hurlburt Field  
Chapel  
884-7795

## Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

*Confessions:* Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

*Youth:* 5 p.m. Sunday

*Religious Education:*

September–May

## Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise and worship),

11:30 a.m. (traditional),

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

*Religious Education:* August–May

Youth and Singles groups available

## Jewish Services (882-2111)

*Sabbath services:* Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

*Havdallah services:* next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

**Muslim Services** (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

*Jum'ah:* Friday, 12:45 p.m.

*Qur'an:* Saturday, 6 p.m.

## At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

## Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday ñ (PG) iHarry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Alan Rickman ñ Harry and friends return for their second year at Hogwarts. Young Harry begins to come into his own as a wizard while doing battle with Draco, the Slytherin Quidditch team, and an evil and powerful new foe.

Saturday ñ (G) iFriday After Next, starring Ice Cube and A.D. Aubert ñ A thief is stealing Christmas presents, and cousins Craig and Day-Day decide to catch the 1990s Santa to keep the spirit of the holiday alive.

Sunday ñ (PG-13) iHalf Past Dead, starring Steven Seagal and Morris Chestnut ñ Criminal mastermind Donny has set in motion a plan to infiltrate a high tech prison in order to persuade a death row inmate to reveal the whereabouts of \$200 million worth of gold. Undercover FBI agent Sascha must stop him before it's too late.

## Eglin 882-1066

Friday and Sunday ñ (PG-13) iThe Emperor's Club, starring Kevin Kline and Steven Culp ñ William finds his world of tradition upended with the arrival of a new freshman, the son of a senator. Almost immediately, they become embroiled in a turbulent battle of wills with repercussions that would still be felt a quarter of a century later.

Saturday ñ (PG-13) iThe Truth About Charlie, starring Mark Wahlberg and Thandie Newton ñ Regina returns home from vacationing in Martinique to find that her husband Charles has been murdered. Their apartment and bank account have been completely emptied. His murder transforms into a belief that, in fact, she must learn the truth about Charlie.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)



## Community

### Trespass Notice

The 16th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms section reminds people not to trespass on the firing ranges and impact areas located off RED HORSE Road.

Trespassing is dangerous because of gunfire and potential gunfire hazards - noise hazards, live fire and being in the impact area when firing isn't being conducted. People must have clearance to enter the range and impact area. For more information, call 884-7520 or 884-7205.

### Public meeting

Okaloosa County, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Air Force (Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base) will hold a public information meeting concerning the feasibility of constructing an interchange at the main gate of Hurlburt Field on U.S. Highway 98. The workshop will be held Jan. 23 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Soundside. The purpose of the meeting is to present several alternative design concepts for an interchange and to obtain feedback from the public.

The interchange, if constructed, should substantially reduce delays to motorists at the intersection, reduce the likelihood of base-bound motorists blocking the through lanes on Highway 98, and expand housing opportunities for base personnel by extending the distance from the base people can live. It is also expected to reduce the frequency of congestion-related traffic crashes occurring near the base entrance. For more information, call Danielle Slaterpryce at (850) 689-5772 or Bob Kellner at (850) 432-6800.

### Commissary closes

The Hurlburt Field Commissary will be closed Jan. 20 and 21 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The commissary will reopen Jan. 22 at 9 a.m.

### AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeant's Association, Chapter 567, will hold a general membership meeting at 3 p.m. Wednesday at J.R. Rockers. For more information, call

Tech. Sgt. Bernadette Garces at 884-7633.

### Officer boards suspended

Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps Headquarters and Officer Training School have drastically reduced the number of non-technical allocations for their programs. ROTC won't be recruiting non-technical majors for fiscal years 03 through 05 as they currently have enough in the pipeline. ROTC will continue to recruit for technical majors such as electrical engineering, meteorology, computer science, math, physics, nursing and all Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology-approved engineering majors. Opportunities for non-technical majors will be extremely limited to nonexistent.

OTS has suspended all non-technical boards until October. All non-technical selects' class assignments are on hold until August. OTS will continue to accept applications for rated (pilot, navigator and air battle manager) and technical sub programs. The rated applicants don't need technical degrees.

The following degrees qualify to meet the technical sub program: architecture, chemistry, computer science, computer engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, and electronic engineering technology. The technology degrees aren't eligible for the engineering Air Force Specialty Code, but are targeted for 33S1.

The following degrees qualify to meet critical technical programs: ABET-accredited atmosphere science, ABET-accredited meteorology, all ABET-accredited engineering, physics and math, weather technicians (1WOXX) with a non-technical baccalaureate degree and a weather Community College of the Air Force degree or a non-technical baccalaureate degree with a minimum of a five-skill level with forecaster training and experience.

Updates to the application requirements will be posted as they become available. For more information, call the education office at 884-6724.

### HESC activities

The Hurlburt Enlisted Spouses Club will sponsor Games Night Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. at the family support center. Participants will be playing Bunco and encourage any enlisted spouse to join for the fun - bring a finger food and a friend. For more information, call Elaina

Cron, HESC president, at 581-1468.

## Classes

### JSOU

The next Introduction to Special Operations Course will be Jan. 21 through 24 at the Joint Special Operations University here. ISOC provides military and civilian members with a joint understanding of Special Operation Forces, to include current structure, available assets and general capabilities. For information on seat availability, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731. For more information about the course call, 1st Lt. James Rigsbee at 884-6861 or visit the Web site at [www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/usafsos](http://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/usafsos).

### Moms, Pops and Tots

An informal format for moms, pops and their young children to meet other parents and observe their children interacting with other children. Meetings are every Tuesday at the family support center for children birth to two-years-old and every Wednesday for children two to four from 10 to 11 a.m. For more information on FSC classes or to sign-up, call 884-5441.

### HAWC classes

For more information on Health and Wellness Center classes, call 884-4412.

Eating Heart Healthy - Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Lean and Healthy Eating - Thursday, 3 p.m.

Diabetic Follow-up - Jan. 17, 9 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy Follow-up - Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m.

### Blue Angel Marathon

Naval Air Station Pensacola, hosts the 20th Annual Blue Angel Marathon and 5K Run Feb. 22. The marathon serves as a qualifier for the 2003 Boston Marathon and begins at 7 a.m. The course is 26.2 miles. The race is open to military and civilian individuals and teams. For more information, call NAS Pensacola, Morale, Welfare and Recreation at (850) 452-3806 extensions 340, 315 or 316.

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# Year in Review

## COMMANDO takes memorable look back on 2002

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

### January

○Lt. Gen. Paul Hester assumed command of Air Force Special Operations Command from retired Lt. Gen. Maxwell "Clay" Bailey, becoming the sixth commander to lead AFSOC.

○Hurlburt Field was selected as one of three finalists for the Installation Excellence Award. Evaluators visited the base and experienced the quality of services offered on the installation.

○16th Medical Group opened a physical therapy clinic providing rehabilitation treatment to injured people here. Prior to the clinic opening members had to travel to Eglin Air Force Base.

○Recycling center turned trash into cash by recycling more than 2,884,800 pounds of paper, glass and metal with a gross income from 2001 of \$81,914.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

**Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, passes the Air Force Special Operations Command flag to Lt. Gen. Paul Hester during the change-of-command ceremony Jan. 16, making him the sixth commander to lead AFSOC.**

### March

○Retired Lt. Gen. Maxwell Bailey, former Air Force Special Operations Command commander became the fourth recipient of the command's Order of the Sword. The Order of the Sword is the highest honor enlisted personnel can bestow on a leader.

○Master Sgt. Ken Smith and Staff Sgt. Stephanie Littlefield, both members of the 16th Special Operations Wing, helped save the life of 81-year-old John Shortall, a former Fort Walton Beach mayor, during their lunch time meals on wheels delivery to his home.

○A Special Operations medical team saved the life of the first person severely injured while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Diane Thomas

**Retired Lt. Gen. Maxwell Bailey, former Air Force Special Operations Command commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens, AFSOC command chief, make their way to the stage during the general's induction into the Order of the Sword March 15.**



Photo by Senior Airman James Davis

**Tech. Sgt. Michell Long, who donated a kidney shares a moment with her brother Don.**

### February

○President George W. Bush visited Eglin Air Force Base and announced plans for a beefed up defense budget. The president said the Commandos were living up to their motto, "Anytime, Any place," because of the accomplishments during the war on terrorism.

○Tech. Sgt. Michell Long, 16th Operations Support Squadron, air traffic controller, donated a kidney to a stranger in order for her brother Don to move to the top of the waiting list.

○Airman 1st Class Anne Vargas, 16th Operations Support Squadron, was one of 7,000 people chosen to run with the Olympic Torch for the 2002 Winter Games.

○The Commando Raiders women's basketball team took on the the British Royal Air Force team for the first time, winning 53-47.

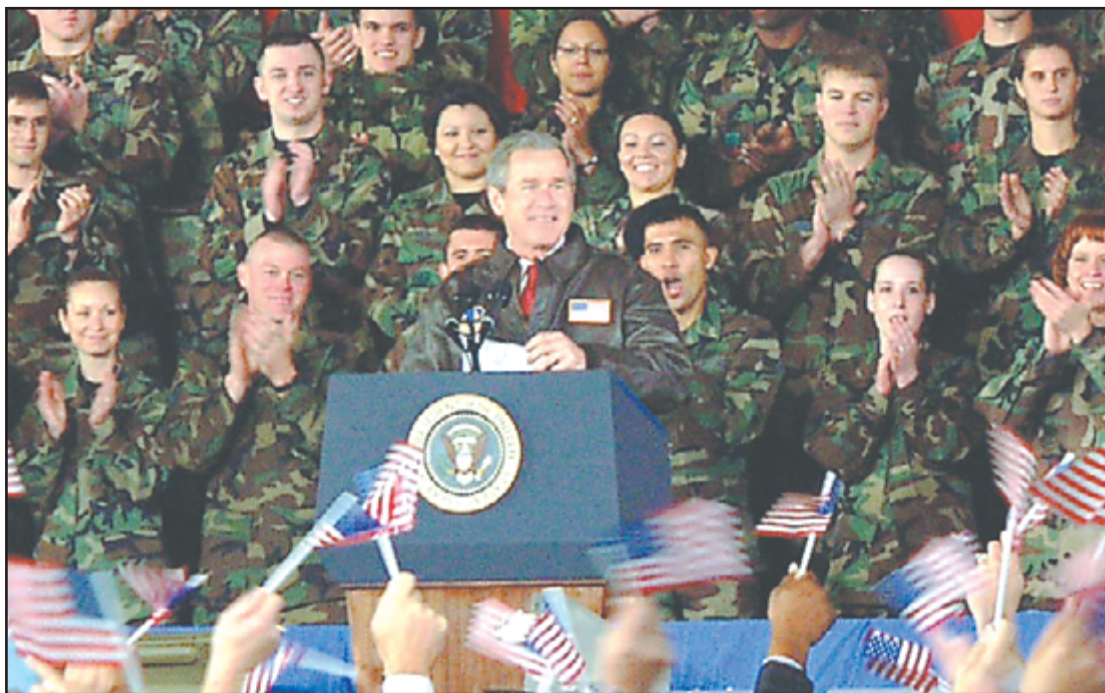


Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

**President George W. Bush addresses a cheering crowd of nearly 8,000 during a visit to Eglin Air Force Base Feb. 4.**



Courtesy photo

**Capt. Scott, 16th Operations Support Squadron, Lt. Col. James, Keesler Air Force Base Medical Center, Maj. Dave, Wilford Hall Medical Center and Maj. Malcolm, Keesler AFB Medical Center, perform an emergency operation on an Army sergeant. Their efforts resulted in saving the life of the first person severely injured while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.**



## April

○Special Operations crewmembers, medical support teams, Combat Controllers and maintainers responded to a rescue mission in Afghanistan to assist American soldiers and airmen who had been injured when a bomb hit their position.

○16th Special Operations Wing members participated in an Ability to Survive and Operate exercise that evaluated the wing's ability to perform a wartime mission during periods of imminent and actual hostile attacks at a deployed location.

○Air Force Special Operations Command recognized the command's outstanding airmen and civilians of the year.

○Staff Sgt. Danielle Hernandez, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron and Senior Airman Valerie Van Deusen, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron played for the Pensacola Power a National Women's Football League.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Larry Deford

**Airman 1st Class Kevin Tyler, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, waits for the all clear sign after the Permanent Exercise Facility compound was placed in Mission-Oriented Protective Posture level four, during the wing's Ability To Survive and Operate Exercise.**

## June

○Col. Frank Kisner assumed command of the 16th Special Operations Command after relinquishing command of the 16th Operations Group.

○The base mourned the loss of three Special Operators: Tech. Sgt. Sean Corlew, Staff Sgt. Anissa Shero, both from the 15th Special Operations Squadron, and Army Sgt. 1st Class Peter Tycz, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg,

N.C. The three members died when their MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft went down shortly after takeoff near Bande Sardah Dam, Afghanistan.

○Hurlburt Field held its first Motorcycle Safety Rally, in an effort to scale down motorcycle accidents and decrease the number of fatalities. The rally was part of the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign.



**Col. Frank Kisner  
16th SOW commander**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

**Members of the Hurlburt Field community bow their heads at a ceremony held in remembrance of the Special Operators who died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom when their MC-130H Combat Talon II crashed in Afghanistan.**



**Staff Sgt.  
Anissa Shero**



**Tech. Sgt.  
Sean Corlew**

## May

○Twenty crewmembers from the 8th Special Operations Squadron at Duke Field won the Brig. Gen. Ross Hoyt Award for the refueling of an MH-53 Pave Low that rescued its sister ship in Afghanistan.

○An MH-53 Pave Low crew from the 20th Special Operations Squadron was awarded the MacKay Trophy for the rescue of their sister helicopter in Afghanistan.

○Several Hurlburt Field senior NCOs designed the NCO Leadership Enhancement and Development Seminar to increase junior NCOs ability to follow and lead in the Air Force environment by adding practical application to their foundation of knowledge and experience.

○Base construction got underway at the east gate to improve traffic flow on base due to the increase in population. There are more than 7,000 active duty people working at Hurlburt Field and traffic at the east gate has increased 190 percent and 22 percent at the main gate since the base was originally opened in the 1950s.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry Deford

**Members from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office compete in the water rescue event during National Police Week, which was hosted by the 16th Security Forces Squadron.**

## July

○Chief Master Sgt. Jim Finch, the service's 13th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, retired after 28 years of service.

○More than 15,000 people attended the Seventh Annual Sound of Independence celebration, which produced an entertaining venue for the military and local community while promoting patriotism.

○A thunderstorm caused a significant amount of damage to the base by destroying roofs in base housing and computers in base operations.



**Retired Chief  
Master Sgt. of  
the Air Force  
Jim Finch**



Photo by Lariza Cuevas

**16th Electronic Warfare Squadron Cardboard Boat Regatta team members paddle their way into first place during the Sound of Independence celebration.**



## August

○The base community mourned the loss of ten airmen who died when their MC-130H Combat Talon II plane crashed near Caguas, Puerto Rico: Maj. Michael Akos, 15th Special Operations Squadron; Maj. Gregory Fritz, 15th SOS; Capt. Christel Chavez, 15th SOS; 1st Lt. Nathaniel Buckley, 15th SOS; Tech. Sgt. Robert Johnson, 15th SOS; Staff Sgt. Shane Kimmett, 25th Information Operations Squadron; Staff Sgt. Robert McGuire Jr., 15th SOS; Capt. Panuk Soomsawasdi, U.S. Southern Command, Naval Air Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto

Rico; Tech. Sgt. Christopher Matero, 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard; Tech. Sgt. Martin Tracy, 123rd STS.

○Air Chief Marshall Srinivasapuram Krishnaswamy, the Indian Air Force Chief of Air Staff, received a tour of Hurlburt Field. The chief's position is equivalent in India to Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff.

○The Air Force's Presidential Honor Guard team visited Hurlburt Field during their 10-day tour. The honor guard was touring to recruit junior and senior NCOs.



Courtesy photo

**An aerial gunner with the 20th Special Operations Squadron, was a member of one of the first Special Operations crews to arrive at the World Trade Centers in New York City.**

## September

○Special Operators responded immediately after the attacks on the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon in 2001. A year later Air Force Special Operations Command continues to lead the fight in the Nation's Global War on Terrorism.

○The Combined Federal Campaign officially started. The CFC's mission is to support and promote humanity through a program that's employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

○Hurlburt Field broke ground on a new community park project. The park is designed to accommodate various recreational and entertainment areas and will contain a large pavillion, three small pavillions, a skate park, an interactive play fountain and batting cages.

○AFSOC honored award winners throughout the command, reflecting the high caliber of people representing AFSOC.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurlby

**Ten flag-draped transfer cases (above) hold the remains of airmen who were aboard the MC-130H Combat Talon II that crashed near Caguas, Puerto Rico. Air Chief Marshall Srinivasapuram Krishnaswamy, Chief of the Air Staff for the Indian Air Force, observes a decontamination demonstration (left) performed by 16th Medical Group airmen.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Diane Thomas



Courtesy photo

**Airmen at a deployed location display part of a mile-long scroll signed and sent by area citizens.**



## October

○The Combat Wing Organization was implemented to standardize operations across the Air Force by enhancing the way it delivers air and space power across the entire range of complex missions.

○Col. Jim Eastman, Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group, ran 25 miles on the track at the main fitness center to commemorate his 25 years of running every day.

○The 16th Communications Squadron broke ground at the site of their new consoli-

dated communications facility.

○The Air Commando Association held their annual reunion here and dedicated a plaque at the base Air Park in remembrance of Operation Jungle Jim.

○Air Force Special Operations Command members received Counter Chemical Warfare Concept of Operations training, designed to minimize contamination of people and resources while reducing Mission Oriented Protective Posture levels as quickly as possible.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

**Col. Hubert Griffin, 16th Mission Support Group commander, stands at attention as Chief Master Sgt. David Force, 16th MSG superintendent, holds the group flag for Airman 1st Class Sean Acrea, Hurlburt Field Honor Guard, as he changes it from the old to the new during the Combat Wing Organization ceremony.**

## December

○Hurlburt Field members donated 30,000 pounds of clothing, toys, school supplies, appliances and more to the SOS Orphanage in La Ceiba, Honduras for Christmas Wish 2002. More than 300 children were given gift packages.

○The base celebrated the holidays with its 10th annual tree lighting ceremony in the Air Park and the 15th Annual Holiday Greeting Card Contest, which was won by the 505th Systems Squadron.

○Contractors continued with the clearing of more than 200 acres of wetlands around the flightline using environmental friendly equipment.

○16th Medical Group broke ground on a project to add an additional 34,000 square feet to the existing facility.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

**First Lt. Richard Pope, 16th Security Forces Squadron (above), entertains children with his digital video camera at the SOS Orphanage in La Ceiba, Honduras, during Operation Christmas Wish 2002. Three-year-old Taj Coleman (right) son of Staff Sgt. Catrina Dean, U.S. Air Force Joint Special Operations University, tells Santa Claus what he wants for the holidays.**

## November

○The base honor guard hosted the Eighth Annual Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Competition.

○Hurlburt Field hosted its annual Veterans Day Celebration at the base chapel with prominent military and civilian leaders.

○Tops in Blue, the Air Force's entertainment showcase performed a 90-minute melody of song and dance at the Soundside.

○The new four-plus-one dormitory design was revealed to Hurlburt Field airmen.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

**Members from an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment standby for a drill competition.**



Courtesy photo

**Base members pack and sort all the items donated during the 10th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, sponsored by the Hurlburt Advisory Council and the First Sergeant's Council.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Diane Thomas



## SPORTS

# Fitness center 'spins' into 2003



Valerie Williams, spinning instructor tightens a cyclist's loose pedal clip.

**Story and photos by  
Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer  
Public Affairs**

Ringin' – or better yet, spinning in the New Year, the Hurlburt Field Main Fitness Center began its first indoor cycling class on Monday at 12:15 p.m. With 18 participants on the first day, Cindy Casteal, the center's aerobic contractor anticipates a bright future for the newly organized class.

Although many people are familiar with the outdoor sport of cycling, spinning is a relatively new activity founded by Johnny Spinner of California, according to the Village.com Web site on diet and fitness.

The Web site defined spinning as "a cardiovascular workout using a heart rate monitor and a stationary bike in a group setting."

The class at the fitness center is 45 minutes in length with various levels of resistance to mirror the outdoor sport.

"There's music in the background that varies according to the energy level of the pedaling," said Jeff Michalke, 16th Special Operations Wing. "For example, the warm-up is usually accompanied with instrumental music and as the instructor increases the pace, the genre could turn to hard rock," he explained.



Cyclists lean forward on the bikes to compensate for the hill simulations.

Valerie Williams, the instructor who'll be leading the spin class for the center, has an indoor cycling certification to assist cyclists in using the bike properly and pedaling at a safe pace for their individual fitness level.

Casteal said, "My goal of the year is to prepare participants for a terrain day." A terrain day is otherwise known to experienced cyclists as a race day, she explained.

In order to prepare cyclists for the terrain day, Casteal is going to focus on base endurance rides to help even the most physically fit adjust their heart rate levels for the sport.

Casteal said that it's important to build an aerobic base to meet the specific levels of endurance necessary for spinning.

Participants are encouraged to bring a water bottle, a towel and a heart rate monitor to each class.

"The heart rate monitor will allow the cyclist to know their perceived exertion, or their maximum heart rate level," Casteal said.

Michalke said that he was having trouble meeting the Air Force fitness standards before he began spinning. "Now I'm able to pass the Air Force cardiovascular test (that is given each year)."

Bill O'Brien, who's been doing spin classes for 10 years, said the important thing to remember about the class is that it's "self-paced." Although the instructor motivates the cyclists to increase their resistance levels, they're encouraged to stay within their means of physical abilities.

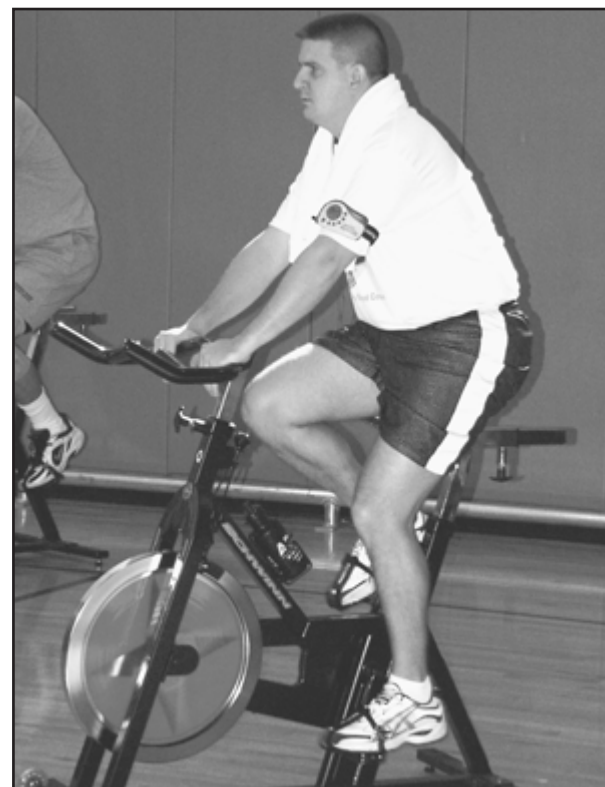
"The risk that most novices encounter with spinning is taking their heart rate to its maximum level to fast and too soon," O'Brien said.

The fitness center offers spinning safety briefings to

help prevent such accidents from occurring, Casteal said.

Participants are encouraged to show up early in order to guarantee an available bike because bikes can't be reserved ahead of time.

Class days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:15 p.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 4 p.m. For more information, contact the center's front desk at 884-6884 or look for the flyers around base.



Jeff Michalke, 16th Special Operations Wing, does some warm-up pedaling to loosen his muscles.